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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FOR PGM/RC, PGM/PPL, AR, VOA, PASS ARA/PAF

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: JONESTOWN SUICIDES IN GUAYANA

1. EDITORIAL REACTION TO DATE ON JONESTOWN SUICIDES HAS APPEARED IN EDITORIAL PAGE OR OP-EDIT PAGE COLUMNS. ALL EMPHASIZED ANGER OF FANATICISM. EL SOL CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH SOCIOLOGIST WHO MAINTAINED THAT BEIG COVERAGE GIVEN JONESTOWN SUICIDES IS "SMOKE SCREEN TO MINIMIZE CIVILIAN ASSASSINATION OF THE TYRANT SOMOZA IN NICARAGUA" AND IS THE "BEST PAINTING POSSIBLE TO DEPICT THE PUTRID MATTER OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM."

2. AGUSTIN MARTIN IN EL CARIBEWROTE NOV 23: "UNFORTUNATELY MAN IS NOT ALWAYS CAPABLE OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN WHAT IS A POSITIVE, AUTHENTIC AND ENRICHING RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT AND ONE WHICH IS A SUPERSITION WITH A STRENGTH OF SUGGESTION SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OVER INTO FANATICISM.

3. "ACCEPTING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT AND RELIGIOUS LIFE, WITH A RESPECT THAT DIFFERENT CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS DESERVE, WE MUST REJECT WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH FANATICISM AS SOMETHING DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE DIGNITY OF THE PERSON, TO CIVILIZATION AND AUTHENTIC RELIGIOUS FEELING."

4. "COLUMNIST HUCHI LORA IN AFTERNOON TABLOID LA NOTICIA SAID: "THE ENTIRE WORLD IS HORRIFIED BY THE KILLING IN GUAYANA... THE TYPE OF COLLECTIVE SUICIDE WAS FORESEEN A LONG TIME AGO BY THE CUBAN PSYCHOLOGIAL EXPERT ENRIQUE HENRIQUEZ... WHO IN HIS BOOK 'CRIMES AND WITCHCRAFT,' WROTE THAT SUCH A PROFOUND VIEL OF MENTAL PRIMITIVISM FALLS OVER SUCH GROUPS THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT WITHOUT HESITATION ORDERS FOR COLLECTIVE POISONING...

5. "AS HENRIQUES SAYS, INTELLIGENT AND CULTUREO PEOPLE FROM THE CIVILIZED WORLD CAN FALL INTO FANATICISM BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT MANAGED TO SUPPRESS THEIR INNATE IMPULSES. THE HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE IN GUAYANA, THEN, MUST SERVE TO KEEP US ALERT. AND THE AUTHORITIES MUST MAINTAIN VIGILENCE OVER PRETENDERS WHO INFLUENCE THE IGNORANT, INCLUDING WITCHES, ASTROLOGISTS, CONJURERS AND WARLOCKS."

6. DOMINICAN PSYCHOLOGIST RAFAEL CASTRO SANCHEZ, INTEREVIEWED BY EL SOL, SAID HE "CONSIDRED THAT THE BIG PLAY GIVE BY US NEWS AGENCIES TO THE COLLECTIVE SUICIDE IN GUAYANA CONSTITUTES A SMOKE SCREEN TO MINIMIZE THE ASSASSINATION OF CIVILIANS BY THE TYRANNY OF SOMOZA IN NICARAGUA."

7. HE TOLD EL SOL THAT HE "BELIEVES THAT THEPLAY GIVEN THE SUICIDE OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE HAS PASSED UNNOTICED BY THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL. 'IN A CERTAIN SENSE, TH PHENOMENON IS GUAYANA IS BEING USED AS A SMOKE SCREEN. MOREOVER, A GROUP OF AMERICANS APPEARS TO BE WORTH MORE THAN A WHOLE PEOPLE,' HE SAID...

8. "CASTROL SANCHEZ MAINTAINED THAT THE MACABRE EVENT IS A REFLECTION OF THE CRISIS THROUGH THE US ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS PASSING. HE SAID THAT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN HALF A MILLION RELIGIOUS SECTS OF THE TYPE OF PEOPLE'S TEMPLE REVEALS THE SOCIAL REALITY IN WHICH ALL WHO LIVE THERE ARE IMMERSED...

9. "IT IS NOT THE FIRST NOR THE LAST TIME THAT THE WORLD WILL BE HORRIFIED BY EVENTS OF THIS KIND IN A SOCIETY SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES; IT IS THE BEST POSSIBLE , CTURE OF THE PUTRID MATTER OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM.' HE SAID."

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